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ABSTRACT

The Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), administered under the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), mandates a five-year plan and assurances. Under guidelines developed by IMLS, the Alabama Public Library Service (APLS) was charged with submitting a Five-Year State Plan by August 1, 1997. This document describes the planning process, which included identifying community needs and then identifying and prioritizing the needs of all libraries. After stating the vision that all citizens of Alabama will be empowered by having equitable access to the world's library and information resources, the following goals are described: (1) Information Access through Technology; (2) Empowerment through Special Services; and (3) LSTA Fund Administration. For each goal, objectives and activities are outlined. Discussion also includes use of 1997 Carry-over Funds, expenditure of funds for administration, and ongoing planning and evaluation. (AEF)

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Library Services and Technology Act Five-Year Plan
October 1, 1997-September 30, 2002

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The Alabama Public Library Service

LIBRARY SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY ACT

FIVE-YEAR PLAN

October 1, 1997 - September 30, 2002

Revised March 30, 1999

Introduction

The Alabama Public Library Service (APLS) was established in 1939 as a separate division of the Department of Archives & History. In 1959 the Alabama Legislature passed an act creating the Alabama Public Library Service as a separate state agency charged with development of a cooperative system of providing books and library service for the various municipalities and counties of the state. Under statute (Code of Alabama, 1975, Section 41-8-1- et seq.) the agency is empowered to receive and "administer all funds, books or other property from whatever source, under such conditions as may be deemed necessary to carry out the purpose of this article."

On September 30, 1996, Congress passed and the President signed an Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act which authorized the restructuring of the Federal Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) into the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). This new legislation, which will be administered under the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), mandates a five-year plan and assurances. Under guidelines developed by IMLS, the Alabama Public Library Service is charged with submitting a Five-Year State Plan by August 1, 1997, with a Preliminary Plan having been submitted by April, 1997.

Planning Process

The planning process on which the Alabama Public Library Service embarked was, in many ways, a continuation of the planning that has been underway within various sectors of the Alabama library community in recent years. Among these sectors are the public library community with planning spearheaded by APLS, the four-year academic libraries as the Network of Alabama Academic Libraries (NAAL), and the school library community through the State Department of Education (SDE). Although this planning has been done independently, representatives have communicated informally and through the Alabama Library Association Ad Hoc Task Force on Information Technology.

By the end of 1996 all three communities had articulated plans or visions. On November 14, 1996, the Electronic Access Committee (EAC) of the Alabama Public Library Service adopted "A Shared Vision: A Plan for Electronic Access to the World's Informational Resources," which was subsequently adopted by the Executive Board of the Alabama Public Library Service on December 12, 1996. Among the recommendations of the EAC were for use of federal funds for electronic access; and for APLS to undertake efforts to make accessible to public libraries necessary electronic databases and gateways to information resources such as commercial electronic databases, state government information, and legislative information.

While the EAC plan was being developed, the Network of Alabama Academic Libraries was proposing development of online library and information services, a virtual library, to share electronic resources among all education institutions in the state, including K-12, two-year colleges and schools, and four-year colleges and universities. The NAAL plan calls for a phased-in approach, in collaboration with the Department of Postsecondary Education and the State Department of Education, to "provide all students and teachers in Alabama with convenient access to appropriate information resources needed for education."

In December 1996, the Governor's Council on Education Technology recommended to the Alabama State Board of Education and to the Governor's Information Technology Commission the Alabama Technology Plan for K-12 Education. This plan, which has not been funded yet, calls for the state to "commit one-time funds and revenues from the state Education Trust Fund to the effort to ensure that every student has access to learning technologies. Using these funds, the state will provide an infrastructure that will connect individual classrooms to the world of information and create an education Intranet that will link together every school, school system central office, public library, and the state Department of Education." Initially students' primary access to this network will be through connections in the school library media center.

Within the environment that evolved while these plans were being developed, APLS initiated its data gathering process for developing the LSTA five-year plan. In January 1997, APLS issued invitations to 5 town meetings to be held in locations throughout the state that were selected to be within a two-hour radius of any community within the state. Invitees included all public library directors; all library system directors; all public library trustees; librarians from all school libraries, two-year community college libraries, and four-year academic libraries; the LSCA Advisory Council; members of the Alabama Library

Association through an announcement on its web page; all Alabama state agencies and constitutional officers; state legislators; and congressmen. During late February and early March town meetings were held in Huntsville (February 27); Montgomery (March 6); Birmingham (March 7); Daphne (March 13); and Demopolis (March 14).

Among those participating were public librarians and system directors; public library trustees, friends, foundation board members, and volunteers; school librarians; academic librarians from both two-year and four-year institutions; representatives of other State agencies; and interested citizens.

The meetings were designed to collect input from attendees about perceived library needs of Alabamians, assistance that libraries will need to enable them to meet these patron needs, and priorities for efforts to meet the needs. The meetings were facilitated by Dr. Annabel Stephens, a professor at the University of Alabama School of Library and Information Studies, assisted by staff from the Alabama Public Library Service. APLS staff explained to attendees the purposes and requirements of LSTA, including the requirements for the five-year plan. A nominal group technique was employed to elicit ideas from all attendees. The first step was to identify community needs, and the second step was to identify and prioritize the needs of all libraries. Each identified library need was listed, and attendees were given seven stick-on dots to use in voting for the need or needs they regarded as most important. There was much commonality among the needs identified at the meetings allowing Dr. Stephens to group and prioritize needs identified during the meetings.

Among the highest priorities identified were automation including Internet access, automating libraries of all types and sizes, statewide licensing of full-text and bibliographic databases, electronic linking of libraries of all types, affordable telecommunications, and continuing education for technology; resource sharing including multitype access and consortia; library advocacy and public relations; materials for resource sharing; general training and consulting assistance; literacy materials and programs; children's programs including the statewide summer reading program; and outreach services.

On March 20, Dr. Stephens presented the results of the town meetings to the LSCA Advisory Council. The Council affirmed the priorities identified in the town meetings.

Working with this input, staff of APLS developed a preliminary plan. The priorities and preliminary plan were disseminated in the Alabama library community for reaction utilizing a variety of means including a posting on the APLS web site; handouts at the state library conference in April; and discussion at the April 24 meeting of Alabama public library administrators. Staff of the Alabama Public Library Service and members of the Long Range Planning Committee of the LSCA Advisory Council reviewed this subsequent input along with that already received for incorporation into the five-year plan.

On May 22 the LSCA Advisory Council reviewed the draft five-year plan. It was presented to the APLS

Executive Board for approval on June 19 and then submitted to IMLS.

Vision

All citizens of Alabama will be empowered by having equitable access to the world's library and information resources.

To that end the LSTA five-year plan focuses on information access through technology and on information empowerment through special services.

Goals – Objectives - Activities

Goal I

Information Access Through Technology

Any Alabama citizen will be able to access a library electronically or on-site to obtain information and services to meet his or her information needs.

Background

In Alabama there are wide variations in resources available in all types of libraries for provision of services to patrons. In several urban areas there are rich collections and well-trained staff. In one of these areas any patron who walks into the public library can access the Internet on-site. Patron Internet access is also available in a few of the more rural, isolated areas in the state. In 1997, for the second year, the Alabama Public Library Service is using federal funds to give public libraries basic electronic/Internet access grants of $5,000. These grants are expected to extend at least minimal dial-up connections to staff of approximately 70% of the public libraries. Still first class connections that will facilitate both patron access and adequate staff access will be needed in addition to extensive training.

Many libraries of all kinds still need assistance in basic automation as well as in connecting catalogs onto the Internet. The automated systems of the four-year academic libraries that belong to NAAL are all linked to the Internet. However, almost no public library catalogs are linked to the Internet. Such access is more the exception than the rule. Many of the public libraries and community colleges are not yet automated, much less accessible electronically.

It appears from information gathered in town meetings that only two urban libraries and the NAAL members offer patrons access to any Internet-accessible, commercial full-text electronic databases. In order to provide more equitable access to information, libraries are requesting that APLS negotiate statewide licensing and support of such databases. During the town meetings there emerged recognition of the need for APLS to provide consulting assistance in planning and evaluating for implementing electronic access, in training, and in advocacy for electronic access for libraries.

Under this goal the Alabama Public Library Service plan will include both statewide programs and grants to local libraries of all kinds. To implement the priorities identified in the town meetings, LSTA funds will be applied to carrying out programs listed below.

Objective I.A. Establish or enhance access to networked information through libraries.

Procedures: The statewide program and competitive grants will carry out this objective through activities such as:

Activity I.A.1. Provide competitive grants to enable all public libraries to obtain as a minimum dial-up connections to the Internet. (1998-1999)

Measurement: Percent of public libraries with Internet access by the end of 1998; by the end of 1999.

Activity I.A.2. Provide competitive grants to public libraries for networked Internet connections with dedicated high-speed telecommunications lines giving priority to those libraries with Z39.50 compliant catalogs to enable 50% of the public libraries to have such connections by the end of 2002. (1999-2002)

Measurement: Percent of public libraries with hardwired connections to the Internet by the end of 1998; by the end of 1999; by the end of 2000; by the end of

2001; and the end of 2002; number of Internet access points in public libraries annually; percentage of public library patrons able to access the Internet at their public library annually; number of Alabama public library catalogs accessible on the Internet.

Activity I.A.3. Make ALICAT, the Alabama union catalog of library holdings, available on the Internet and continue efforts to add holdings to it and to AULS, the state union list of serials which is disseminated as a component of it. (1998-2002)

Measurement: Number of additional Alabama libraries able to access ALICAT; currency of data; increase in holdings in each database; number of interlibrary loans from Alabama libraries contributing to either ALICAT or AULS.

Activity I.A.4. Provide access to statewide databases and/or their user interfaces in order to make a common core of databases available to all libraries. (1998-2002)

Measurement: Number of databases accessible via the Internet by patrons of Alabama libraries annually; number of libraries connected to state-supported databases; annual use statistics for each database; periodic surveys to determine user satisfaction with specific databases.

Activity I.A.5. Provide competitive grants to libraries to mount existing Z39.50-compliant catalogs and data on the Internet. (1999-2002)

Measurement: Number of catalogs added to the Internet each year; percentage of library holdings in the state accessible via the Internet; increases in interlibrary loan requests received by Alabama libraries.

Activity I.A.6. Provide competitive grants to libraries to automate library collections and mount the catalogs and data on the Internet. (1998-2002)

Measurement: Number of catalogs added to the Internet each year; percentage of library holdings in the state accessible via the Internet; increases in interlibrary loan requests received by Alabama libraries.

Objective I.B. Prepare library staff to utilize current and new technologies and to assist Alabamians in accessing information through the use of new technologies.

Procedures: The statewide program and competitive grants will accomplish the

following:

Activity I.B.1. Coordinate and offer workshops for staff of all types of libraries on planning for, implementing and using technology. (1998-2002)

Measurement: Number of workshops offered annually; number of workshop topics covered in training; number of library staff members and library trustees attending workshops annually; quality of training, as measured by participants on evaluations.

Activity I.B.2. Make grant funds available for library personnel to attend technology training. (1998-2002)

Measurement: Number of library staff members and library trustees attending workshops annually; quality of training attended, as measured by participants on evaluations.

Activity I.B.3. Provide consultant assistance to public libraries in planning for, implementing and utilizing technology. (1998-2002)

Measurement: Number of consultant visits for these purposes annually; number of libraries visited annually.

Activity I.B.4. Support the acquisition and use of technology for the provision of continuing education, as needed, through a state-directed program and competitive grants. (2002)

Measurement: Number of systems purchased; number of libraries served; number of library staff members and library trustees benefiting from such training.

Activity I.B.5. Provide information on new and emerging technologies to libraries through print and electronic publications. (1998-2002)

Measurement: Number of issues produced; number of copies distributed of print publications; number of usages of electronic publications.

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Objective I.C. Encourage and enhance resource sharing so Alabamians have access to library materials beyond the scope of local collections.

Procedures: The statewide program and grants will accomplish the following:

Activity I.C.1. Enhance the ability of the Alabama Public Library Service to provide backup reference and interlibrary loan services. (1998-2002)

Measurement: Count of bibliographic items added to collection and to OCLC database for interlibrary loan support; number of items supplied on interlibrary loan; number of items borrowed over interlibrary loan for patrons; percent of requests received that are filled; numbers and types of instate libraries served; analysis of materials loaned and materials not available.

Activity I.C.2. Fund net-lending reimbursement for resource sharing. (1998-2002)

Measurement: Number of items supplied on interlibrary loan within the net-lending program; number of items borrowed over interlibrary loan for patrons within the net-lending program.

Activity I.C.3. Fund the fax network. (1998-2002)

Measurement: Number of requests received via fax; number of copies sent via fax; number of new sites added to the fax network.

Objective I.D. Encourage libraries to provide improved services to patrons through consortia.

Procedure: The statewide program and grants will accomplish the following:

Activity I.D.1. Competitive grants will be awarded for planning consortia. (1999-2002)

Measurement: Number of consortia formed; number of new services emerging from consortia planning grants; number of patrons expected to be served by these services.

During the latter part of 1997 and in 1998, APLS staff, working with members of the LSCA/LSTA Advisory Council, will develop grant criteria and guidelines for grants to local libraries. The process will include identification of performance measures for evaluation of all technology projects. These grant criteria and guidelines will go through the State-mandated Alabama Administrative Code process which requires public distribution of grant criteria and guidelines, a period for written comment from interested members of the public, and a public hearing prior to adoption by the APLS Executive Board.

Goal II

Empowerment Through Special Services

All Alabama citizens will have access to library resources and services that advance and enhance their lives.

Background

Alabama has a very diverse population ranging from urban to rural, from affluent to very poor, and from well-educated to functionally illiterate. For Alabamians to develop into or remain independent, productive citizens in a rapidly changing society, library services must be available to reach each citizen in a convenient location and at the level and in the format he needs.

Library services for children and young adults are necessary to the future of the State and the nation. In 1992, 52% of Alabama's fourth-grade public school students lacked basic reading proficiency. In addition, in 1989, 24% of Alabama's children lived in households with income below the poverty level. The need to encourage children to read and develop thinking skills surfaced in the town meetings. Reading outside the classroom in after-school programs and during the summer reinforces skills learned in the classroom. In 1996, 9% of the 5-year-old to 13-year-old population (based on 1990 census figures) participated in the summer reading program. Preschool programs and outreach programs to community centers and child care facilities prepare children to learn to read. In many communities, home schooling is becoming more popular and home schoolers use the public library as their basic library.

In 1990 Alabama had 522,606 persons who were sixty-five years of age or older, of whom approximately 1.4% needed specialized library services. Of these 7,321 citizens, 5,803 individuals or 79% are being

served through the Agency's Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped plus its five subregional libraries. Of the readership 37% are blind, 50% visually impaired, 7% are physically handicapped, and 6% are reading disabled. Of this readership 3% are literate in Braille.

There are approximately 28,500 individuals housed in state-supported mental health/mental retardation, correctional, and youth services institutions. This figure represents a major jump from 1994 when there were approximately 21,500. For a number of years APLS has supported library programs in state mental health/mental retardation facilities, state correctional facilities and state youth services facilities. Presently there are library programs in all 16 facilities in the mental health/mental retardation system, 12 correctional facilities, and on 5 youth services campuses as well as deposit collections on 3 youth services campuses. Significant impact has been reported for these programs.

As of the 1990 census the population of Alabamians over 65 had reached almost 523,000 or 12.9% of the state population. With Americans living longer in general and with many areas of Alabama developing into retirement communities, this population is expected to increase dramatically. Also, according to the 1990 census, 39.67% of the population lived in rural areas or on farms. The public librarians identified need for funding to assist in providing outreach to those seniors unable to come to the library for services as well as those who lacked access due to geographical isolation or physical handicaps.

According to the 1990 census, there were 13,362 Alabama residents who either spoke English poorly or not at all. The total group was 0.3% of the state's population. During the town meetings the librarians repeatedly emphasized the need to support programs teaching English as a second language.

Illiteracy remains a major problem in Alabama. As of the 1990 census, 34.74% of the out-of-school population aged 16 or over had neither a high school diploma nor a graduate equivalency degree. Also, at the same time, 12.2% of the population aged 18 or over had educational attainment levels of less than ninth grade. In each town meeting illiteracy was recognized as a major problem. Numerous public libraries in the state have managed or cooperated in literacy programs in the past, and staff of these libraries believe that such participation is still needed.

Under this goal APLS will support both programs of statewide scope and grant programs to provide services by public libraries and by state agencies that provide library services for residents of institutions.

Objective II.A. Provide services to ensure that children and youth at risk in Alabama will receive the library programs and services they need to support their educational and recreational needs.

Procedures: The statewide program and competitive grants will accomplish the following:

Activity II.A.1. Support the development of a theme and materials for a statewide summer reading program. (1998-2002)

Measurement: Number of children served, with an increase of 1 % per year the targeted increase; evaluative reports from libraries; and subjective evaluation of statewide committee of children's librarians.

Activity II.A.2. Provide competitive grants to public libraries to provide services targeted to children and youth at risk. (1998-2002)

Measurement: Percent of eligible children served; number of patrons served; number of programs continued with local funds.

Objective II.B. Enhance library services to enable libraries to better serve those with physical handicaps.

Procedures: The statewide program and competitive grants will accomplish the following:

Activity II.B.1. Provide competitive grants to public libraries and to state departments and institutions to improve services to the blind and physically handicapped. (1998-2002)

Measurement: Number of patrons served; number of programs continued with local funds.

Activity II.B.2. Support and enhance the statewide services of the Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, a division of APLS. (1998-2002)

Measurement: Number of new patrons served; percent of eligible users in state served by programs; increase in number of items circulated by Regional Library.

Activity II.B.3. Support the acquisition and use of technology to enable library users with special needs to access library resources and services through the competitive grant process. (1998-2002)

Measurement: Number of patrons served; number of programs continued with local funds.

Objective II.C. Support programs to insure library services for Alabamians who choose to use library services and resources and who are of diverse geographic, cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds, or who have limited functional literacy or limited information skills.

Procedure: The statewide program and competitive grants will accomplish the following:

Activity II.C.1. Provide competitive programmatic grants to public libraries and to state departments and institutions to enable them to plan for and develop services responsive to local needs. Grants will be awarded for the improvement of library services for older adults, persons with disadvantages, person who are institutionalized, persons with limited literacy or English language skills, and persons in unserved or under-served areas. (1999-2002)

Measurement: Number of patrons served; number of programs continued with local funds.

Objective II.D. Prepare library staff to better serve Alabama's diverse citizenry.

Procedure: The statewide program and competitive grants will accomplish the following:

Activity II.D.1. Coordinate and offer workshops for staff of public libraries on serving patrons with diverse backgrounds and needs. (1998-2002)

Measurement: Number of workshops offered; number of workshop topics covered in training; number of library staff members and library trustees attending workshops; quality of training, as measured by participants on evaluations.

Activity II.D.2. Make funds available for library personnel to attend training on serving patrons with diverse backgrounds and needs. (1998-2002)

Measurement: Number of staff members and library trustees attending workshops.

Activity II.D.3. Provide consultant assistance to public libraries in planning services for patrons with diverse backgrounds and needs. (1998-2002)

Measurement: Number of consultant visits to local libraries for this purpose; number of local libraries visited; number of new services resulting from consultant visits.

Activity II.D.4. Provide information on current and emerging resources and services to libraries through print and electronic publications. (1998-2002)

Measurement: Number of issues produced; number of copies distributed of print publications; number of usages of electronic publications.

During the latter part of 1997 and in 1998, APLS staff, working with members of the LSCA/LSTA Advisory Council, will develop grant criteria and guidelines for grants to local libraries. The process will include identification of performance measures for evaluation of these projects. These grant criteria and guidelines will go through the State-mandated Alabama Administrative Code process which requires public distribution of grant criteria and guidelines, a period for written comment from interested members of the public, and a public hearing prior to adoption by the APLS Executive Board.

Goal III

LSTA Fund Administration

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All LSTA funds will be used to meet the goals of the Alabama state plan in accordance with the priorities of the Library Services and Technology Act.

Objective III.A. Administer LSTA funds in Alabama in accordance with applicable state and federal statutes and regulations.

Procedures: The statewide program will accomplish the following:

Activity III.A.1. Support, on an ongoing basis, the Agency staff and their activities to improve library service, including advisory services, continuing education, statewide planning, technology development, and subsidies. (1998-2002)

Measurement: Number of consultant visits re LSTA; number of continuing education events sponsored with LSTA funds; number of statewide plans developed; number of sets of grant rules and regulations developed; number of sets of grant rules and regulations distributed; number of grants reviewed; number of grants awarded.

Activity III.A.2. Inform eligible libraries of the availability of LSTA grants through distribution of print publications and electronically via the APLS Web page. (1998-2002)

Measurement: Number of requests received for catalogs of grant rules and regulations; distribution of requesters among types of libraries.

Activity III.A.3. Inform the public of the availability of The Alabama Public Library Service Library Service Library Services and Technology Act Five-Year Plan October 1, 1997-September 30, 2002 as well as catalogs of grant rules and regulations, through mailing of press releases to newspapers in Alabama about availability, distribution to offices of Congressional delegation, and mounting on state agency web page. (1998-2002)

Measurement: Number of requests for copies of the plan and the catalog of grant rules and regulations from the general population.

Activity III.A.4. Involve libraries and library users in ongoing review and evaluation of state LSTA program. (1998-2002)

Measurement: Number of LSTA projects evaluated by members of LSTA Advisory Council; number of area meetings held for review and input; number of attendees; annual evaluation of program by LSTA Advisory Council.

Activity III.A.5. Monitor subgrantee compliance through reports and, when possible, site visits and provide reports to the federal government as required. (1998-2002)

Measurement: Number of subgrantee reports reviewed and accepted; number of site visits made; number of reports submitted to federal government; timeliness of reports submitted to the federal government.

Activity III.A.6. Provide continuing education for LSTA administrative staff, as needed and when continuing education opportunities are available, so that they better understand the requirements of the program. (1998-2002)

Measurement: Number of staff participating in continuing education opportunities.

Activity III.A.7. Contract for an outside evaluator to evaluate impact of the LSTA program in Alabama. (2001)

Measurement: Quality of evaluation; timeliness of evaluation; percent of priorities in this plan that were achieved.

Use of 1997 Carryover Funds

Carryover funds will be used to support already-awarded grants for the following programs:

Development of reference collections and automation in small public libraries serving populations of 10,000 or less;

Grants to provide electronic/Internet access;

Grants to provide library services to residents of State institutions including correctional facilities and mental health facilities;

Grants to provide services to students at the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind;

Grants to develop collections to support resource sharing in major urban libraries;

Grants to support part-time professional training grants;

Continuing education grants;

Public library construction or renovation and major library technology enhancement projects; and

Net-lending reimbursement to support resource sharing.

In addition carryover funds will be used to support the following statewide programs: maintenance and dissemination of statewide databases; programs to support services to children and young adults; continuing education programs; resource sharing through the fax network; backup reference and interlibrary loan as well as development of specialized collections to support resource sharing; support of consulting services; library advocacy and dissemination of information through publications with emphasis on technology and on specialized services; and administration including support of the LSTA Advisory Council.

Expenditure of Funds for Administration

As authorized in the LSTA, up to 4% of the federal funds may be expended for administrative costs in connection with programs and activities carried out in the Act. These funds will be used to: manage the projects and activities that fall under the purposes of the LSTA; provide financial and program accountability for the administration of federal funds; conduct the regular business of the Library Services

and Technology Act Advisory Council, including soliciting input, feedback, suggestions, and inquiries regarding the program being conducted; and evaluate the results and impact of the LSTA program.

The following publications and reports will be produced as part of the administration of the program: LSTA Five-Year Plan; rules and applications for LSTA grants; LSTA annual report; LSTA evaluation; and other special projects and reports as needed.

Ongoing planning and evaluation

It is anticipated that the plan will be reviewed annually by the LSTA Advisory Council during the next five years and revised as needed due to changes in technology as well as state and local funding changes. As part of the revision process there will be town meetings on a two- to three-year cycle. There will be an LSTA Advisory Council which will provide input and assistance. All revisions will have to be adopted by the APLS Executive Board.

It is planned that the LSTA Advisory Council will evolve from the present LSCA Advisory Council. This fifteen-member council is broadly representative of public libraries; school libraries; academic libraries; special libraries, such as law or medical libraries; institutional libraries, such as reformatory or hospital libraries; libraries serving the handicapped in the state; and users of such libraries. Additional representation from community colleges, school libraries and library education is planned. The functions and responsibilities of LSTA Advisory Council are: to advise the State agency on the development of the State plan including the preparation of long-range and annual programs; to advise the State agency on policy matters arising in the administration of the State plan submitted under the Act and regulations; and to assist the State agency in evaluating library programs, services, and activities under the State plan.

APLS will develop a proposal to obtain the services of an outside evaluator to conduct an independent evaluation of the activities carried out under the five-year plan. A report will be submitted to the Director of IMLS prior to the end of the five-year plan.

Assurances and Certifications

Assurances and Certifications have already been sent.